

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Final Office Action of August 11, 2006 and the Advisory Action of November 24, 2006 is respectfully requested.

Enclosed herewith is a petition for a one-month extension of time with the requisite fee.

In the Office Action the status of the claims was listed as follows:

Claims allowed 1-15, 17-19, 28-31, and 33-35.

Claims objected to 23-26.

Claims rejected 20-22, 27, 36-43, 45 and 46 (with claims 20, 27, 36, 40, 45 and 46 being independent claims).

To summarize the claim amendments made herein:

A) Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of the objected to claim 23 (i.e., 20/22/23) and thus claims 22 and 23 have been canceled.

B) Objected to dependent claims 24 and 25 have been rewritten into independent form and the dependency of claim 26 has been fixed.

C) Claims 27 and 36-46 have been canceled.

Thus, each of the independent claims pending in this application have been already allowed or represent a rewriting of a dependent claim indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims stand in immediate condition for allowance and confirmation of the same at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested. It is also respectfully submitted that the application as a whole stands in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, it is deemed that the present application is not in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to further discuss the case. Also, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this

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Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit  
Account 02-4300; Order No. 034017.006.

Respectfully submitted,  
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